

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 034761
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JEBURGESS:ML

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL

S/S-O:RGAMBLE

-----160343Z 056313 /75

R 152348Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMKM/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0000

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

JCS

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

/COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 034761

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT PORT LOUIS 0125 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI

DHAHRAN DOHA ISLAMABAD JIDDA KUWAIT MANAMA MUSCAT NAIROBI

NEW DELHI TEHRAN VICTORIA 15 FEB 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T PORT LOUIS 0125

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG PK KE IR BA MU SA MP

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE -- THE NEW FORMAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 034761

REF: STATE 030235

1. IN ASSESSING THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROBABLE ATTITUDE
TOWARD NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR MIDEASTFOR, TWO ASPECTS OF ITS
OVERALL POSTURE MUST BE BORNE IN MIND:

(A) GOM SUPPORT FOR INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOZP) PROPOSAL, WHICH THOUGH NOT PARTICULARLY ACTIVE AT PRESENT NEVERTHELESS REMAINS FERVENT. THIS MEANS THAT GOM NOT ONLY OPPOSES FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN AREA BUT ALSO NAVAL PRESENCE OF SUPER-POWERS. THIS LATTER OPPOSITION IS SOMEWHAT THEORETICAL, HOWEVER, SINCE GOM HAS CONTINUED TO WELCOME PORT VISITS BY AMERICAN, SOVIET, FRENCH AND BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS. THESE PORT VISITS ARE HARDLY CONSTRUED AS "SUPPORT," NO MATTER HOW NECESSARY THEY MAY BE FOR VESSELS IN QUESTION.

(B) GOM OBJECTION TO THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S. NAVY'S PRESENCE ON DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH FORMERLY BELONGED TO MAURITIUS (PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE) AND WHOSE MINERAL RIGHTS ARE RETAINED BY GOM. THIS ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN A VOCAL ONE IN MAURITIUS RECENTLY, DESPITE FACT COUNTRY HAS RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RATHER MUTED ON SUBJECT, BUT STRONG MARXIST-ORIENTED OPPOSITION PARTY, THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM), HAS KEPT AGITATING THE QUESTION AND CASTIGATING GOVERNMENT FOR PAST SIN OF HAVING "SOLD" DIEGO GARCIA TO BRITISH AND FOR CONTINUING TO "PERMIT" AMERICANS TO USE IT AS A MILITARY BASE. JUST RECENTLY THE MMM SECRETARY GENERAL, PAUL BERENGER, HAS BEEN PROMOTING THE IDEA OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE IN TANANARIVE OF THE "SOCIALIST AND PROGRESSIVE PARTIES" OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA (I.E., RULING GROUPS IN MADAGASCAR AND COMOROS, SPUP OF SEYCHELLES, COMMUNIST PARTY OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 034761

REUNION AND THE MMM) TO DEAL WITH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE "DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN." THE RULING COALITION OF THE LABOR PARTY AND MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH ENJOYS ONLY A TWO-SEAT MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT, CANNOT AFFORD TO BE "SOFT" ON THE QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA OR THE IOZP.

2. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT WE COULD OBTAIN A GOM "COMMITMENT" TO ASSURE MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP EXTENDED VISITS AT PORT LOUIS AS OUTLINED REFTEL. AT THE SAME TIME, BELIEVE WE COULD OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR TWO VISITS A YEAR OF TWO WEEKS EACH WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, SO LONG AS THESE WERE PRESENTED AS "ROUTINE OPERATIONAL VISITS" SUCH AS LA SALLE HAS MADE IN PAST, ONLY OF LONGER DURATION. ONE SUCH EXTENDED VISIT A YEAR WOULD BE EASIER TO ARRANGE THAN TWO.

3. THE SERIOUS PROBLEM LIES IN THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT BE ABLE TO STATE ACCURATELY THAT IT IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH PROVIDES SUPPORT TO UNITS OF THE

FORCE" (PARA SIX, REFTEL). THE KEY WORD IS "SUPPORT."
WERE "ACCESS TO PORTS" TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR "SUPPORT"
THE PROBLEM WOULD BE GREATLY MINIMIZED. WERE MAURITIUS TO
BE CITED AS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES PROVIDING THE "SUPPORT,"
I FEAR THAT THAT WOULD RENDER IMPOSSIBLE ANY PORT VISITS BY
THE LA SALLE HERE. BY THE SAME TOKEN WERE REQUESTS TO THE
GOM FOR EXTENDED PORT VISITS TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS "SUPPORT"
FOR MIDEASTFOR, I FEEL SURE PERMISSION WOULD BE DENIED.

4. LA SALLE AND OTHER MIDEASTFOR UNITS HAVE MADE FREQUENT
VISITS TO PORT LOUIS IN PAST, BUT OF COURSE MUCH LESS FREQUENTLY
SINCE SUEZ CANAL REOPENED. WE HAVE CERTAINLY NOT OVER-
BURDENED PORT LOUIS RECENTLY. PLANNED VISIT OF USS LONO
BEACH LATER THIS MONTH WILL BE FIRST BY A US NAVY VESSEL
IN A YEAR. BELIEVE MORE FREQUENT VISITS IN FUTURE WOULD
BE WELCOMED, EVEN FOR LONGER STAYS, SO LONG AS THEY ARE
PRESENTED AS NOT REALLY DIFFERENT FROM PAST ROUTINE OPERATIONAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 034761

VISITS. THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM ABOUT CARRYING OUT SELF-
MAINTENANCE HERE, AND SOME LOGISTIC SUPPORT BY AIR MIGHT ALSO
BE POSSIBLE.

5. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO PRESENTING NEW FORMAT
FOR LA SALLE AS ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO A "FLOATING COMMAND"
WITH NO HOME PORT IN THE AREA, OR A THEORETICAL OR ACTUAL
HOME PORT IN THE US, RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT "SUPPORT"
BEING SHARED BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

6. THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM OF EXTRA BURDEN ON THIS EMBASSY
FOR NUMBER OF VISITS PROPOSED, AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE
BETTER NOT TO HAVE SPECIAL LIAISON/SUPPORT PERSONNEL FROM
MIDEASTFOR IN ORDER NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE CHANGED
NATURE OF LA SALLE'S PORT VISITS.

7. TO SUMMARIZE, IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO
OBTAIN COMMITMENT FROM GOM FOR EXTENDED VISITS BY FLAGSHIP,
AND IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO ASK, IF FUTURE PORT VISITS
ARE CONTEMPLATED. IF IT WERE STATED PUBLICLY BY ANY SOURCE
THAT MAURITIUS WAS PARTICIPATING IN A MULTI-COUNTRY EFFORT
TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MIDEASTFOR, THAT WOULD PROBABLY MEAN
THE END OF ACCESS TO PORT LOUIS FOR US NAVY SHIPS. HOWEVER,
IF WE SIMPLY REQUESTED PERMISSION ROUTINELY FOR ONE OR TWO
EXTENDED PORT VISITS BY THE FLAGSHIP WITHOUT CHANGING THE
CONTEXT FROM THE PAST, BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE GRANTED.
KEELEY

UNQUOTE HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE034761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEBURGESS:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770054-0657
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770238/aaaabicw.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17264bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 30235
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3313336
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST FORCE -- THE NEW FORMAT SECRET SECRET
TAGS: MORG, MOPS, PK, KE, IR, BA, MU, SA, MP, US
To: KHARTOUM NEW DELHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17264bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009